

Listing of Claims:

1-28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) [[An]] A machine-readable storage medium having program code stored thereon which, when executed by a processor, cause said processor to perform the operations of:

encrypting a first group of unencrypted multimedia channels using conditional access ("CA") encryption to produce a first group of encrypted multimedia channels;

encrypting said first group of unencrypted multimedia channels using a different type of encryption to produce a second group of encrypted multimedia channels; and

simulcasting said first group of encrypted multimedia channels simultaneously with said second group of encrypted multimedia channels to a plurality of multimedia subscribers having either a new multimedia receiver or a legacy multimedia receiver, said second group of encrypted multimedia channels being decryptable by said new multimedia receivers and said first group of encrypted multimedia channels being decryptable by said legacy multimedia receivers.

30. (canceled).

31. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 29 wherein said different type of encryption is digital video broadcast ("DVB") encryption.

32. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 29 wherein said first group of unencrypted multimedia channels are subscription based channels.

33. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 29 having program code stored thereon to cause said processor to perform the additional operations of:

compressing said first group of encrypted multimedia channels using a first compression type and said second group of encrypted multimedia channels using a second compression type.

34. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 33 wherein said first compression type is MPEG-2.

35. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 34 wherein said second compression type is MPEG-4.

36. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 29 having program code stored thereon to cause said processor to perform the additional operations of:

transmitting a second group of unencrypted multimedia channels in an unencrypted format.

37. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 36 wherein said second group of unencrypted multimedia channels are basic cable channels and said first group of unencrypted multimedia channels are subscription-based cable channels.

38. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 37 having program code stored thereon to cause said processor to perform the additional operations of:

encrypting a first subset of said basic cable channels using said first type of encryption to produce a first group of encrypted basic cable channels;

encrypting said first subset of said basic cable channels using said different type of encryption to produce a second group of encrypted basic cable channels; and

concurrently transmitting said first group of encrypted basic cable channels with said second group of encrypted basic cable channels to said plurality of multimedia subscribers.

39. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 38 having program code stored thereon to cause said processor to perform the additional operations of:

transmitting a second subset of said basic cable channels in an unencrypted format.

40. (currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium as in claim 39 having program code stored thereon to cause said processor to perform the additional operations of:

regularly transferring channels from said first subset of basic cable channels to said second subset of basic cable channels and channels from said second subset of basic cable to said first subset of basic cable channels.

41. (currently amended) A headend system for processing multimedia streams comprising:

a first encryption module to encrypt a ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams using conditional access ("CA") encryption; and

a second encryption module to encrypt said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams using a different type of encryption; and

a quadrature amplitude modulation module to modulate said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams encrypted in both CA encryption and said different type of encryption for simulcasting to a plurality of multimedia subscribers at the same time, the plurality of multimedia subscribers having either a new multimedia receiver or a legacy multimedia receiver, each new multimedia receiver being capable of decrypting said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia channels encrypted in said different type of encryption and each legacy multimedia receiver being capable of decrypting said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia channels encrypted in said CA encryption.

42. (canceled).

43. (previously presented) The headend system as in claim 41 wherein said different type of encryption is digital video broadcast ("DVB") encryption.

44. (currently amended) The headend system as in claim 41 wherein said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams are premium cable channels.

45. (currently amended) The headend system as in claim 41 further comprising:
a first compression module to employ a first type of compression on said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams encrypted using said first compression type;
and

a second compression module to employ a second type of compression on said ~~first~~ plurality of original multimedia streams encrypted using said second compression type.

Claims 46-55 (canceled).

56. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for processing multimedia channels comprising:

encrypting a number of unencrypted multimedia channels at a headend using conditional access ("CA") encryption to produce a first group of encrypted multimedia channels;

simultaneously encrypting the same unencrypted multimedia channels at the headend using a different type of encryption to produce a second group of encrypted multimedia channels;

simulcasting said first group of encrypted multimedia channels with said second group of multimedia channels at the same time from the headend to a plurality of multimedia subscribers each having either a new multimedia receiver or a legacy multimedia receiver, each new multimedia receiver being capable of decrypting said first group of encrypted multimedia channels and each legacy multimedia receiver being capable of decrypting said second group of multimedia channels.

57. (currently amended) A system comprising:

means for encrypting original channels using both conditional access ("CA") encryption and a different form of encryption; and

means for simulcasting said original channels encrypted in both CA encryption and said different form of encryption to subscribers simultaneously, the subscribers having either a new multimedia receiver or a legacy multimedia receiver, said original channels encrypted using said different form of encryption being decryptable by said new multimedia receivers and said original channels encrypted using said CA encryption being decryptable by said legacy multimedia receivers.

58. (new) A method for deploying new multimedia receivers comprising:
encrypting an original set of channels using a first type of encryption;
encrypting said original set of channels using a second type of encryption; and
simultaneously broadcasting said encrypted sets of channels that have been
respectively encrypted in said first type of encryption and said second type of
encryption to subscribers having either a new multimedia receiver or a legacy
multimedia receiver;

said channels encrypted using said second type of encryption being
decryptable by said new multimedia receivers and said channels encrypted using
said first type of encryption being decryptable by said legacy multimedia receivers.

59. (new) The method as in claim 58 further comprising:
transmitting a specified group of channels using no encryption.

60. (new) The method as in claim 59 wherein said specified group of channels
comprise basic cable channels and said original set of channels comprise premium
channels.